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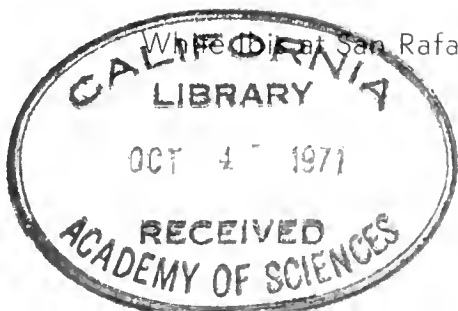
GULL
BULLETIN

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October 1971

Number 10



Whitehead, San Rafael with Snowy Egrets, August 9, 1971.

—Photo by S.S. Whitehead

WILDLIFE FILMS 1971-72

This year's Audubon Wildlife Film series begins **October 18** with the showing of Wilfred Gray's "British Columbia: Mountains to the Sea." Unfortunately, we can tell you nothing about this film because we have as yet received no details from National Audubon. Hopefully, this information will be forthcoming in time for future films in the series.

The films will be shown this year in the Oakland Auditorium Theater under the co-sponsorship of GGAS and the Oakland Museum. With the Museum's help, these films should reach a larger audience than before.

Prices remain the same as last year: \$5.00 for the series for Audubon and Museum members, \$6.00 for non-members, and \$3.00 for students under 18. Tickets for individual films will be sold at the door for \$1.50. All films will begin at **8 p.m.**

The other four films in the series will be: **Monday, November 22**, John Paling's "Filming in No-Man's Land," an extraordinary under-water film; **Monday, February 7, 1972**, Lyle K. Moss' "Mule Deer Country"; **Wednesday, February 23**, Bower Rudrud's "Treasure of East Africa", and **Monday, March 27**, Robert W. Davison's film of the Grand Canyon, "Journey in Time." For further information, call our Wildlife Films Chairman, Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter (655-9582).

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING

Having spent the past seven years building our chapter's Nature Training Program, Phyllis Lindley, who prefers teaching to administration, has retired as director, teacher, secretary, and broom-wielder. She will, however, continue to give two days a week to the program as instructor, for which we are grateful. We all owe Phyllis a large debt of gratitude.

Replacing Phyllis as director will be Mrs. Marilyn (Michael) Langner. A specially appointed selection committee interviewed the twelve most highly qualified applicants out of a total of thirty, and chose Mrs. Langner on the basis of her past experience in working with volunteer help and with credentialed teachers, and for her warmth, enthusiasm, and ideas.

We welcome her and assure her that she may expect the fullest cooperation from the board and the membership.

—CLAIRE JOHNSON, *President*.

GGAS GENERAL MEETING

The first GGAS meeting of 1971-72 will be held on Thursday, October 14, 1971, at 7:30 p.m., at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. The program will include a speaker and slides on Point Pinole. We cordially invite all GGAS members to attend.

ASILOMAR CONFERENCE IN MARCH 1972

Paul Howard, Western Representative of National Audubon Society, has announced that the biennial Asilomar Western Conference will be held from Saturday, March 25 through Tuesday, March 28, 1972. No conference was held in 1970 because the National Convention was held that year in Seattle. The theme of the upcoming conference will be "Golden Opportunities in Conservation," with special emphasis on "What's new in '72?"

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Shall we have garbage fill or wildlife habitat? If we do not develop new demands for old papers, cans, and bottles, our wastes may bury us along with wildlife and the natural waters and habitats we both need. The recycling picture in our own metropolitan area right now is rather bleak.

For example, the market is saturated with newspapers, although some dealers will still accept them at \$2.00 per ton. Most of the local recycling collection centers have given up, and many people will not drive miles to reach those that survive. It is commendable and promising that several major beverage distributors have stopped selling their "no-returns" and are redeeming their bottles and cans, but we must still have more local laws prohibiting "no-returns" in retail trade. The vast bulk of Bay Area household trash still winds up on bayside dumps, and when they are filled you know what pressures will mount for new areas to serve instead.

What can you do about it, Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen? If you cannot locate a handy recycling center, call Ecology Action (843-1820) for Eastbay locations or the Ecology Center, San Francisco (391-6307) for centers on the peninsula and in the City. These young people are struggling with mountains of paper and trash for meager personal gain to help the recycling cause. Also, keep asking local governments and planning agencies when we will get those big new super-incinerators or paper-garbage brick pants. Ask which paper-goods producers and publishers are using recycling papers. If some are not, find out why not.

Flash! A petition against the use of Compound 1080 and certain other lethal baits for predator control has been filed with the new Environmental Protection Agency by the Sierra Club and six other organizations. We hope to see such a ban someday extended to squirrel baiting, but California farmers and Fish and Game officials claim controlled 1080 applications are still the least damaging method.

Protecting wildlife is everyone's concern. To simply "mind one's own business" as in the recent slaughter of eagles in Wyoming and other western states can result in disaster for a community, state, or nation. Surely there must have been some citizens who knew of the killings, but who were not talking for one reason or another. If so, such timidity, which verges on complicity in the act, is to be condemned. There is the frightening possibility that similar destruction might be inflicted on other vanishing American birds and mammals, even on the refuges set aside to protect them. An entire population could be wiped-out because chance witnesses would not want to "get involved."

For example, as I heard another presentation by John Smail of PRBO on the problems of protecting the birds on the Farallon Islands, I realized how trigger-happy men could easily destroy a substantial portion of the birds and seals on the southeast island. For when the last Coast-guardsmen leaves the Farallon Light, only a single PRBO biologist, perhaps without weapons or authority, may be the sole defender of this irreplaceable wildlife. In such a case we can only hope that every fisherman and pleasure boater who cruises off the Farallons will feel involved in their welfare.

BIRDING CALENDAR

October is an exciting month for Bay Area birders, for it marks the beginning of our spectacular winter season, which finds our bays, estuaries, and reservoirs inhabited by thousands of waterfowl, shorebirds, loons, grebes, and herons. Diligent birders can be assured of seeing most of the species of water-oriented birds on the California list within an easy day's drive from any point in the Bay Area.

Last month's spots continue to be good, though perhaps for different reasons. Most of the fall migrants will be gone by mid-October, though happily they will soon be replaced by wintering waterfowl, which begin to be evident late in the month. What follows applies not merely to this month, but to the entire season to come.

TOMALES BAY and DRAKES ESTERO—excellent throughout the winter for waterfowl, shorebirds, and loons. Black Brant have been regularly sighted in this region.

SAN PABLO, BRIONES, and UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIRS—While direct access to these reservoirs just east of the Berkeley-Oakland Hills is still restricted, birders with a telescope and a little luck may see the following waterfowl during the coming months: Common Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, Wood Duck, and hundreds of Canada Geese.

LAKE MERRITT in downtown Oakland is famous for its wintering birds. Beginning in late October, this, the first wildlife sanctuary in North America, becomes home for hundreds of waterfowl, including both Scaups, Canvasback, American Goldeneye, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, and Bufflehead. Last winter, many of the scarce Barrow's Goldeneye were seen, along with a male Hooded Merganser and a Red-throated loon.

Other noteworthy places for waterfowl include **COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK, RICHARDSON BAY, ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE, LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK,** and the **PALO ALTO SALT MARSH.**

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Saturday, October 9—*Elkhorn Slough* near Moss Landing to see waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at **9 A.M.** in the parking lot of the Harbor Inn on the west side of Highway One just north of the Elkhorn Slough Bridge. For those who are going on the boat trip out of Monterey on Sunday, October 10, this trip will be a splendid way to start your weekend. Leader, George Peyton, Jr.

October 9 and 10—Monterey boat trips. (See *September Gull* for details.)

Wednesday, October 13—*Sunol Regional Park*. Meet at **9:15 a.m.** at the park headquarters (a small brown cottage). Take interstate 580 east to interstate 680, just past the Dublin turnoff. Turn south on 680 and drive 8 miles to Calaveras Road (Highway 84). Immediately turn left on Calaveras Road and drive several miles to the sign that points to Sunol. Turn left and proceed one mile to the park headquarters. Leaders, Ted and Ruth Dement (527-7923).

Sunday, October 17—*Palo Alto Salt Marsh*. A good place for shorebirds, rails, and owls. From the East Bay, take Nimitz Freeway south to Jarvis

Road. Drive west on Jarvis Road and continue over the Dumbarton bridge to the Bayshore Freeway (US 101). Drive south on 101 to Embarcadero Road. Turn left on Embarcadero Road, drive over the overpass, and continue to the yacht harbor. Meet at the duck pond (on the left near the nature center) at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch and interested friends. Leader, Dick Chandik (327-4575).

Saturday, October 23—*Samol Regional Park*. See directions above. Meet at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader, Tom Carson (581-2655).

Saturday and Sunday, October 30-31—An overnight trip to *Point Reyes Peninsula*. We will go to the lighthouse and to Limantour. Make overnight reservations with Mr. Jerry Brady, Inverness Motel, Inverness, California; or the Golden Hinde Motel (mention Audubon). If you wish to camp, Samuel P. Taylor State Park is about 10 miles away on the Sir Francis Drake Highway. There are also camping facilities at a private campground on Highway One in Olema. Dinner Saturday night will be at Jerry's Farmhouse in Olema (about \$3.50). Provide your own breakfast: there are several coffee shops in Point Reyes Station as well as one very pleasant one in Inverness. Bring lunch for both days. The meeting place will be the same each day: Inverness Store at **9 a.m.** To get to Inverness, travel north on 101 past San Rafael to the Lucas Valley Exit. Drive west through Nicasio and follow the signs to Point Reyes Station. Drive through the town, cross the bridge, and immediately turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Proceed to the Inverness Store. Allow 1½ hours driving time. If you cannot come for both days, come for one. Leader, Jack Mann (352-1965).

Dates to hold: November 6 for a five-mile "birdhike" on *Mt. Tamalpais*; **November 14 and 17** for *Tubbs Island*; and **November 20-21** for a weekend at *Willows and Gridley*.—PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Red-necked Grebe, August 10, Bodega Bay—Bill Pursell *et al.*

White Ibis remained at San Rafael through September 3.

Four *Clapper Rails*, August 19, near Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Oakland.

Three *Ruddy Turnstones*, August 19, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza; one on Albany mudflats, August 15—Loring Dales; two at Bodega Bay, August 10.

Wandering Tattler, August 16, Bay Farm Island—Elsie Roemer, Thaire Adamson.

Knot in pinkish plumage, August 10, Bodega Bay—Larry Curl *et al.*

Pectoral Sandpiper, August 15 & 17, Pescadero Pond—Bill Anderson; also one on Bodega Head, August 30—Bill Pursell.

Three *Baird's Sandpipers*, August 10, Bodega Bay—Bill Pursell *et al.*; also four on Pescadero Pond, August 15,—Bill Anderson; three on Pescadero Pond, August 23—Bud Fry.

Nine *Wilson's Phalaropes*, August 10, Bodega Bay.

Two *Elegant Terns*, July 18, Alameda South Shore—Elsie Roemer. About 200 *Elegant Terns* on sandbar near Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Oakland August 19—Bill Pursell *et al.*; 25 near San Leandro Bay with 5 Caspian and about 200 Forster's Terns, August 30.

Eight *Marbled Murrelets*, August 30, Bodega Bay—Bill Pursell.

Xantus Murrelet, August 17, offshore near Cronkhite Beach, Marin Co. (dark back without white scapulars, small dark bill)—Bill Pursell *et al.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, August 8, Geo. Hatfield State Recreation Area, east of Newman—Nick and Helen Story.

Three *Pileated Woodpeckers* near Alpine Dam, Marin Co., August 16—Bill Pursell, Alice Mericourt.

Dipper, July 31, Pescadero Creek near YWCA Camp, San Matco Co.—Jean Jones.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, August 17, Rodeo Lagoon.

Early *Cedar Waxwing*, August 24, Jewel Lake in Tilden Park—VH.

Yellow-throated Vireo, August 21, Point Reyes Seashore Headquarters, Olema—Val and Bob DaCosta. (wing bars, spectacles, yellow throat and sides, olive back.) It was singing.

Black-throated Gray Warbler, August 24, Tilden Park, Berkeley.

Hermit Warbler, August 19, U.C. Botanical Garden—Bill Pursell *et al.*

Pair of *Hooded Orioles*, August 13, on hummingbird feeder in El Cerrito—Alice Mericourt.

Western Tanagers: Two females in Berkeley, July 11; one female in Montclair hills, Oakland, August 14 and August 27; one male in Lafayette during first two weeks of August.—VI HOMEM, *Observations Editor*, 339-1886.

Correction of September *Gull*: At the end of the observations Column, p. 69, the second date for Audubon's Warbler feeding baby Robins was June 30.

BLUE HERON CENSUS

The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University is undertaking a nation-wide survey of Great Blue Heron breeding populations. The lab is therefore anxious to receive any information you may have regarding known or *possible* Blue Heron nesting sites. This information may be old or new, but should be sufficiently precise to allow the laboratory to locate the site on a topographic map. Historical details are also sought. If you can help in this important survey, please write immediately to: Dr. David B. Peakall, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. The laboratory hopes to complete this phase of research by winter 1971, so that the census may begin with the spring 1972 breeding season.

EAST AFRICA SAFARI PLANNED

Two special safaris to East Africa for July and August, 1972, are now being organized by GGAS Vice-president George Peyton. Both will emphasize birds, the big mammals, and the ecology of the region. Each safari will be limited to fifteen people, with no more than four to a vehicle. This arrangement should mean more comfort, leisure, and personal attention for tour members than is usual on such trips.

Both safaris are being arranged in cooperation with Bud Simon and with Root and Leakey Photographic Safaris, Ltd., of Nairobi, Kenya. Alan Root is the leading African wildlife photographer who produced the excellent film, *The Baobab Tree*, which was shown as a surprise feature of

our annual meeting in June. Richard Leakey is Director of the Kenya National Museum and the son of famed anthropologist L.S.B. Leakey.

Informal study sessions will be conducted by Mr. Peyton during the coming year to introduce tour members to the basic ecology and natural history of East Africa. Anyone interested in further information should contact him by phone (444-3131 or 531-5588) or letter (4304 Adelaide Street, Oakland, California 94619.)

NEW BOOK ON CALIFORNIA COAST

The Institute of Governmental Studies has recently announced the publication of *California's Disappearing Coast: A Legislative Challenge* by Gilbert E. Bailey and Paul S. Thayer. This book embarks on a 1000 mile journey along the shoreline from Mexico to Oregon, surveys the various forces, such as freeways, oil wells, and nuclear power plants, which "are likely to make large-scale incursions into what is left of the state's coastline," and examines the current debate over coastal use and the legislative proposals now under consideration. Finally, it suggests standards to be used in judging any future actions. The book is 99 pages long and includes maps, references, and an appendix with a table on the Assembly vote on the Coastal Preservation Bill (AB 2131-Wilson). Copies may be ordered by visiting or writing to the Institute of Governmental Studies, 109 Moses Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720. The price of the book is \$3.00. Mail orders should be accompanied by cash, check, or money order. Residents of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties must add 5½% sales tax to the amount of their order.

GGAS ASSUMES NEW DUTIES—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As of October 1, 1971, GGAS will take over both the informational function and office space that the National Audubon Society has maintained at 1749 Grove Street, Berkeley. Volunteer help is urgently needed to man the office until more permanent arrangements are made, which shall hopefully be in the very near future. GGAS members who would like to donate some of their time to help us in this interim period are requested to contact Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter at their earliest convenience. Her telephone number is 655-9582.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Nature Training*:

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Mrs. Fay Oliphant	Dr. Cecilia Lee
	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Tarman, Jr.
	Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Paek
Mr. Guy Shafer	Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles
Mr. Harley Ault	Phyllis Barteleme

In addition, an especially generous gift was made to *Audubon Nature Training* by the Piedmont Garden Club. The garden club might make yearly donations.

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Road, Oakland, California 94610. Telephone: 541-6167.



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THE GULL

October

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covell	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Chmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

GGAS delegates to Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC):

Joshua Barkin, George Peyton, Jr., Mrs. Richard F. Johnson (addresses above)

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership,—Local & National \$12 per year, (individual); \$15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.